

Kiga language

Kiga (also called *Rukiga*, *Ruchiga*, or *Chiga*) is a Great Lakes Bantu language of the Kiga people (*Bakiga*). Kiga is a similar and partially mutually intelligible with Nkore language. It was first written in the second half of the 19th century.

Kiga is so similar to Nkore (84%–94% lexical similarity^[4]) that some argue they are dialects of the same language, called Nkore-Kiga by Charles Taylor.^[5]

In common with other Bantu languages, Kiga has a noun class system in which prefixes on nouns mark membership of one of the noun genders. Pronouns, adjectives, and verbs reflect the noun gender of the nominal they refer to. Some examples of noun classes:

- mu – person (singular), e.g. *omukiga* = inhabitant of Kigezi land
- ru – language, e.g. *Rukiga* = language of the Kiga
- ba – people, e.g. *Bakiga* = The Kiga people
- ki – customs or traditions, e.g. *kikiga*, (sometimes spelled *Kichiga*), describes religious tradition common to the Kiga people. Sometimes the people are called 'Chiga' by people misunderstanding the linguistic rules in relation to the prefixes.

The sound [ɭ] is not distinctive in Rukiga. The letter "r" is used instead.

See also

- Runyakitara language
- Nkore-Kiga

References

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- Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. New Updated Guthrie List Online (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf>)
- Lewis, Paul M. (ed.) (2009). "Ethnologue Report for Language Code: nyn" (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=nyn). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Sixteenth edition*. Dallas, TX: SIL International. Retrieved 9 December 2009.

Kiga	
Chiga	
<i>Rukiga</i>	
Native to	Uganda, Rwanda
Ethnicity	Kiga, Twa
Native speakers	1.6 million (2002 census) ^[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Volta-Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northeast Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Great Lakes Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nyoro-Ganda<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kiga
Standard forms	Runyakitara
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	cgg
Glottolog	chig1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chig1238) ^[2]
Guthrie code	JE.14 ^[3]

5. Poletto, Robert E. (1998). *Topics in Runyankore Phonology* (<ftp://ftp.ling.ohio-state.edu/pub/oden/Polettodissertation.pdf>) (PDF). Linguistics Graduate Program, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Retrieved Dec 8, 2009.

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